

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 BIB-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 JUSE-00
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R 281350Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5657
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, CZ
SUBJECT: RECENT CHARTER 77 ACTIVITIES

REFS A. PRAGUE 1575, B. PRAGUE 1339
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1. SUMMARY: FOR THE FIRST TIME, A CZECHOSLOVAK STATE
OFFICIAL, ATTORNEY GENERAL FAN FEJES, HAS REPLIED IN WRITING
TO A CHARTER 77 LETTER OF PROTEST. CHRISTIAN GROUP WITHIN
CHARTER MOVEMENT HAS ADDRESSED OPEN LETTER TO FOREIGN DELEGATES
CURRENTLY ATTENDING CHRISTIAN PEACE CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE.
CHARTER LEADERSHIP MAY CHANGE IN AUTUMN. SUMMER ACTIVITIES OF

CHARTER SIGNERS INCLUDE UNDERGROUND CONCERTS AND A "FLYING UNIVERSITY." END SUMMARY

2. GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO PROTEST. IN AN ACTION CHARTER 77 ORGANIZERS SAY IS UNPRECEDENTED, CZECHOSLOVAK ATTORNEY GENERAL JAN FEJES, ONE OF SEVERAL HIGH OFFICIALS ADDRESSED BY THE CHARTER SPOKESMEN IN A LETTER PROTESTING THE ABDUCTION AND BEATING OF MUSIC CRITIC IVAN MEDEK MAY 16(REF B), HAS REPLIED TO THEM IN WRITING. HIS LETTER, REPORTEDLY POLITE IN TONE, PROMISES INCIDENT WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION BEING SET UP WITHIN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. SOME CHARTER ORGANIZERS MAY HAVE BEEN CALLED TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE, AMONG THEM CHARTER SPOKESWOMAN KUBISOVA, WHO WAS SURPRISED TO BE TREATED MOST AMICABLY BY INVESTIGATORS IN A SESSION WITH THEM LAST WEEK.

COMMENT: WHILE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LETTER FALLS SHORT OF CONFERRING LEGITIMACY ON CHARTER 77, IT IS SEEN BY THE SPOKESMAN AS SOMETHING OF A VICTORY. THEY HAVE NOT YET STIMULATED DIALOGUE WITH THE STATE PROPOSED IN THEIR FOUNDING DOCUMENT, BUT CHARTER SIGNERS HAVE, IN THEIR OWN VIEW, AT LEAST FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE NOTICE AND RESPOND. END COMMENT.

3. CHRISTIANS PROTEST JAILINGS. IN AN OPEN LETTER TO FOREIGN DELEGATES TO THE FIFTH WORLD CHRISTIAN PEACE CONFERENCE, NOW MEETING IN PRAGUE, A GROUP OF CHRISTIAN CHARTISTS HAS APPEALED TO FELLOW CHRISTIANS FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF CHARTER SIGNERS JAN SIMSA, A CATHOLIC PRIEST, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALES BREZINA, A DIVINITY STUDENT IMPRISONED FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION, AUTHOR JIRI GRUSA, AND ACTIVIST PAVEL ROUBAL. THE LETTER, SAID TO BE COUCHED IN TERMS OF TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN DEFIANCE OF TYRANNY, REPORTEDLY CONTAINS QUOTATIONS FROM ST. PAUL, AND INVITES DELEGATES TO JOIN ITS AUTHORS IN PRAYING FOR CZECH PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE. ONE OF THE LETTER'S AUTHORS HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN WARNED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES NOT TO ATTEMPT CONTACT WITH DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE, WHICH ENDS JUNE 27.

4. CHARTER LEADERSHIP. FROM RECENT CONTACTS WITH A NUMBER OF CHARTER 77 FIGURES, WE UNDERSTAND THE MOVEMENT'S LEADERSHIP MAY CHANGE IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. NOT ONLY DOES SPOKESWOMAN MARTA KUBISOVA PLAN TO RESIGN AT THAT TIME, IN THE BELIEF THAT ONE YEAR IS THE LONGEST A PERSON SHOULD BE SPOKESMAN, BUT A NUMBER OF OTHER ACTIVISTS ARE NOW SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING EMIGRATION. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LETTER ON THE MEDEK AFFAIRS WAS JUDGED SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT BY THE CHARTER ORGANIZERS FOR THEM TO HAVE CALLED ANOTHER MEETING JUNE 25; HOWEVER, BRNO-BASED SPOKESMAN JAROSLAV SABATA WAS UNABLE TO REACH PRAGUE AND WE UNDERSTAND NO MAJOR INITIATIVES WERE APPROVED IN HIS ABSENCE.

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5. SUMMER ACTIVITIES: IN ADDITION TO PREPARING FOR THE
AUGUST ANNIVERSARY OF 1968 INVASION, WHEN MANY CHARTISTS
PLAN TO LEAVE PRAGUE TO ESCAPE THE EXPECTED ARRESTS, SOME OF
THEM ARE USING SUMMER MONTHYUAND ENFORCED UNEMPLOYMENT TO RECRUIT
NEW MEMBERS, PRIMARILY OUTSIDE PRAGUE. THEY ADMIT PROGRESS IS
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SLOW, BUT SAY THEY ARE SURPRISED TO HAVE ATTRACTED AS MANY SIGNERS AS THEY HAVE DONE (APPROXIMATELY 1,050). ASKED WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE SIGNERS ARE WORKERS BY PROFESSION, AS OPPOSED TO DECLASSE INTELLECTUALS, ONE OF THE SPOKESMEN SAID "FORTY PERCENT." THE "FLYING UNIVERSITY", DISCONTINUED UNDER PRESSURE IN 1977, HAS BEEN RESURRECTED UNDER LEADERSHIP OF PHILOSOPHER JULIUS TOMIN. AND ON JUNE 18 DISSIDENT FOLKSINGER VLASATY, THOUGH NOT LICENSED TO PERFORM, WAS ABLE TO HOLD A CONCERT UNDER CHARLES BRIDGE. CONCERTS UNDER BRIDGES, VLASATY EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF, ARE SYMBOLIC OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO CZECH CULTURAL LIFE SINCE 1968, WHEN CONCERTS WERE HELD ON TOP OF BRIDGES.

6. COMMENT: WE DO NOT THINK ATTORNEY GENERAL FEJES'S REPLY TO CHARTER SPOKESMEN, THOUGH UNPRECEDENTED, SIGNALS A MAJOR CHANGE IN REGIME POLICY. IT MAY BE A TACTICAL MOVE CALCULATED TO LULL DISSIDENTS INTO FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY OR TO COAX THEM AWAY FROM AN EXTREME LINE DURING AUGUST ANNIVERSARY. SETTING UP A COMMISSION IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS MORE ELABORATE ACTION, IF IT IS INDEED BEING DONE, THEN INVESTIGATION OF INDISCIPLINE AMONG SECURITY POLICE WOULD SEEM TO WARRANT. END COMMENT.

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